

Large Print Bulletins are available in the back of the Sanctuary

## Denmark Manor United Church of Christ

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First Sunday in Lent

March 5, 2017

Please remember to turn off your cell phones during the Worship Service. Thank you.

Preparation Music

(Please be seated and prepare yourself for worship)

The Entrance of the Light

Welcome

Moments of Concerns and Announcements

\*Ringing of the Bell

\***Introit**

Introit

**All: Open the eyes of my heart, Lord.**

**Open the eyes of my heart, I want to see you.**

**I want to see you. (repeat 1<sup>st</sup> three lines)**

**To see you high and lifted up, Shining in the light of your glory.**

**Pour out your power and love as we sing, "Holy, Holy, Holy".**

**Holy, Holy, Holy**

**Holy, Holy, Holy,**

**Holy, Holy, Holy I want to see you**

**I want to see you.**

**I want to see you.**

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\*Opening Prayer

**\*Hymn #205 "Forty Days and Forty Nights"**

Scripture Lesson: Matthew 4:1-11

Call to Reconciliation

*Pastor: Forty days alone, a wilderness of thoughts, tempting and inviting thoughts, which could so easily have distracted Jesus from his task, his mission, his vision.*

*Yet Christ emerged, stronger and more attuned to all that had to be done, despite a time constraint that to our eyes would have seemed hopeless.*

**Prayer of Confession**

**All: O God, we too live in stressful times.**

**Demands are made of our time, that leave so little for the important things of life.**

- **We are easily distracted in the wilderness of our lives, by every call to go this way or that, to turn stone to bread leap from mountains, and do all that would keep us from the truth.**
- **We listen to the voices of this world, and ignore the one who endured all this and so much more, and emerged triumphant, that we might not have to suffer so.**

**Forgive us, Father, when we get distracted from our task.**

**Forgive us those times when we try to be all things to all people, and fail to be anything to anyone.**

Adapted from a resource written by John Birch, and posted on his Faith and Worship website. <http://www.faithandworship.com/>

A Moment of Silent Reflection

Kyrie # 750

**All: Lord have mercy upon us.**

**Christ have mercy upon us.**

**Lord have mercy upon us.**

Words of Assurance

\*Act of Praise..... #760

(Please stand)

**All: Amen we praise your name, O God! (Sing Amen)**

**Amen we praise your name, O God! (Sing Amen)**

**Amen, Amen! Amen, Amen!**

**Amen we praise your name, O God!**

\*The Passing of the Peace

Pastor: *The peace of Christ be with you.*

All: **And also with you.**

Please share a greeting of Christian love with those sitting around you.

A Time for Children: “Temptations”

Sermon: “Wilderness Temptations”

**\*Hymn #207 “Just as I Am”**

Our Morning Prayers

The Candle of Remembrance is lit in hope that the Holy Spirit would bring peace to the world. In lighting it we remember all past and present military personnel and first responders, especially those in harm’s way.

**Call to Prayer “Pray”**

**All: Pray \_\_, pray \_\_, pray \_\_ for peace within our world \_\_\_\_.**

**Pray \_\_, pray \_\_, pray \_\_ for peace within our souls \_\_\_\_.**

**Pray \_\_, pray \_\_, pray \_\_ for love and unity \_\_\_\_\_;**

**Quiet our busy hearts, Pray \_\_, pray \_\_, pray \_\_ .**

**Pray \_\_, pray \_\_, pray \_\_.**

Silent Prayer, Pastoral Prayer,

Prayer of Our Savior (spoken)

**All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.**

**Thy kingdom come,**

**Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread,**

**and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.**

**And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For Thine is the kingdom,**

**and the power and the glory forever. Amen**

Our Time of Sharing

Invitation to the Offering, The Sharing of Gifts

Offering Music

\*Offertory Response “We Are Giving in the Light of God” (526)

**All: We are giving in the light of God,**

**We are giving in the light of God.** (Repeat previous 2 lines)

**We are giving, giving, we are giving, Oo,**

**We are giving in the light of God.** (Repeat previous 2 lines)

Prayer of Dedication

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

(Children are welcome to receive Communion at the discretion of their parents. Gluten free wafers are found in the center of the plates of bread.)

The Invitation

Communion Prayer

Pastor: *God be with you.*

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: *Lift up your hearts.*

Pastor: **We lift them to God.**

Pastor: *Let us give thanks to God Most High.*

Pastor: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Pastor: *We give you thanks, God of majesty and mercy, for calling forth the creation and raising us from dust by the breath of your being. We bless you for the beauty and bounty of the earth and for the vision of the day when sharing by all will mean scarcity for none.*

*We remember the covenant you made with your people Israel, and we give you thanks for all our ancestors in faith. We rejoice that you call us to reconciliation with you and all people everywhere and that you remain faithful to your covenant even when we are faithless.*

*We rejoice that you call the entire human family to this table of sacrifice and victory.*

*We come in remembrance and celebration of the gift of Jesus Christ,*

*whom you sent, in the fullness of time, to be the good news. Born of Mary, our sister in faith, Christ lived among us to reveal the mystery of your Word, to suffer and die on the cross for us, to be raised from death on the third day, and then to live in glory.*

*For in the night of betrayal Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to you, broke the bread, and gave it to the disciples, and said: "Take, eat: This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way also after supper, Jesus took the cup, and after giving you thanks, gave it to them and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you and many, for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."*

*Holy One, show forth among us the presence of your life-giving Word and Holy Spirit, to sanctify us and your entire church through these holy mysteries. Grant that all who share the communion of the body and blood of our risen Savior may be one in Jesus Christ. May we remain faithful in love and hope, until the perfect feast with our exalted Savior in the eternal joy of your heavenly realm. Amen*

Anthem: "One Bread, One Body"

Pastor: *Through the broken bread we participate in the body of Christ. Through the cup of blessing we participate in the new life Christ gives.  
Come, for all things are ready.*

The Distribution of the Elements

Pastor: *Eat this, for it is the body of Christ, broken for you.*

Pastor: *Drink this, for it is the blood of Christ, shed for you.*

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

**All: Bountiful God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

## \*Hymn #211 "Lord Jesus, Who through Forty Days"

\*The Benediction

\*Benediction Response

\*Postlude

Denmark Manor seeks the inspiration of the Holy Spirit as we work together through.....

The Congregation.....Disciples of Christ  
Rev. Meredith Ann Hutchison.....Pastor  
Irina Thomas.....Organist and Keyboard  
Rheba Salac.....Administrative Assistant  
Wade Anderson.....Sexton  
Robin Brautigam, Trude Hayes, Doreen Cherep .....Today's Readers



**Did you know** that in your copy of our newsletter, The Hilltop Echoes, there is an OGHS Giving Calendar to help you to think about the needs of our neighbors at home and around the world. Banks to put your coins in are in the back of the sanctuary, and if you did not get a copy of the Hilltop, there are extras on the back table.

This week:  
Monday-Consistory 7:00PM

## **Wednesday- Lenten Get-togethers with our Cluster Reimagining Church**

**The first gathering** of our Cluster will be at Emmanuel Reformed Church (Hill's Church) 3618 Hills Church Road, Export at noon, beginning with lunch. The topic of conversation will be "A Brave New World."

Thursday-Choir  
Saturday-The Bible Study group will gather, but Pastor Meredith will not be able to attend. She will send out the scriptures in advance.

## Lenten Cluster Get-togethers:

### RETHINK CHURCH 101

Our Gatherings with the United Church of Christ Churches in our Cluster will be different this year as we think about Reimagining Church.

**The first gathering will be this Wednesday at Emmanuel Reformed Church (Hill's Church) 3618 Hills Church Road, Export at noon, beginning with lunch. The topic of conversation will be "A Brave New World."**

**The second gathering** will be March 22 at First UCC in Harrison City, 1008 Harrison City-Export Road, Harrison City at 7:30PM. The topic will be "Changing World, Changing Church."

**Finally, we will meet on April 5 here at Denmark Manor,** beginning with dinner at 6:30 and the discussion and worship at 7:30PM. The focus will be "Where Do We Go from Here?" We will conclude with worship, the Rev. David Ackerman-Penn West Conference Minister, preaching.



**Looking ahead:** On Palm Sunday (April 9) we will hear the Passion Story is told in the Gospel of Matthew.



**MAUNDY THURSDAY** During Holy Week, we celebrate Maundy Thursday with a simple meal of soup and bread at 6:30PM. This is followed by communion in the Fellowship Hall and a silent procession into the Sanctuary for a Tenebrae Service of light and darkness.



Easter Sunday is April 16. Please spread the word that there will only be ONE service and it will be at **10:00AM.**

Our Annual Beef Dinner is April 29.

Attendance for February 26: 44  
Offering for February 26: \$1,616.00

Attendance for Ash Wednesday, March 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Offering for Ash Wednesday, March 1: \_\_\_\_\_

## About Our Prayer List



*Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*

I Thessalonians 5:16

It has been quite some time since we provided an up-to-date prayer list for you, and we invite your input into our list. You will note that the list as it is found on the back of today's bulletin is considerably smaller than last week's.

If you do not see someone's name, and you would like for them to be listed (and you have their permission), there is a clear plastic box in the back of the sanctuary for your prayer concerns. Simply fill out the form and put it in the box. Be sure to include your name along with the name of the person for whom you are requesting prayers.

If we have omitted someone, it is not because we do not care. It is simply because we are doing our best to be faithful in our prayers. Of course, keep in mind that we all need prayer and we should always "bear one another's burdens." (Galatians 6)

*Pastor Meredith*

## From the Stillspeaking Devotional of the United Church of Christ

### What God Craves

"Don't be afraid," David said to him, "for I will surely show you kindness for the sake of your father Jonathan." - 2 Samuel 9:7

The Shack is due for release in theaters on March 3. Some will love it,  
*continued*

some will boycott it, and some will ignore it. If it's like the novel I read ten years ago, I will use it as a tool to teach that what God craves is intimacy with those created in his own image.

William P. (Paul) Young's novel relates the story of a man named Mack who experiences an unimaginable tragedy, the murder of his daughter. God invites Mack to meet him at an abandoned cabin deep in the woods.

Young's personal story is what *The Shack* is all about. He never had a child murdered; his faith was murdered when he was a child. Born into a strict missionary family he overheard cannibalistic tribesmen discuss whether they would kill his parents, so he distanced himself from them. Sexually abused in a missionary boarding school, he learned he could trust no one. For decades, he feared God, maintaining a safe distance, certain that his performance never measured up.

Then came an eleven-year span in his life where he dealt with the pain head on, and learned that what God longs to get through to us is this: "I just want you to be with me and discover that our relationship is not about performance or having you please me."

Mephibosheth, the disabled grandson of Israel's King Saul, had reason to be terrified of the new monarch, David. He trembled in the king's court until he learned that what David wanted was not to punish him for what his grandfather had done, but to feed and house him out of pure grace.

That's what Mack learns in *The Shack* – that what God craves is for us to eat at his table and find a depth of intimacy with God made possible because Christ comes to meet us in our shack.

Prayer . . . O God, free me from every barrier that keeps me from

embracing your invitation to hold on to grace and overflow that grace into the lives of others, through Jesus Christ, Amen.



*About the Author . . . Bob Thompson is Pastor of Corinth Reformed Church (UCC) in Hickory, North Carolina, and President of Faithful and Welcoming Churches of the UCC. He posts sermons and other reflections on his blog, [corinthpastorbob.com](http://corinthpastorbob.com).*

